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HULK 2099 DEEM

AND INTRODUCING Galahad 2099

DIRECT EDITION
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I WAS A WEASEL
HOLLYWOOD
GREEDHEAD.

I BETRAYED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE
CALLED THE KNIGHTS OF THE
BANNER TO GET A STORY FOR
VIRTUAL REALITY EXPLOITATION.

IF I'M EVER GOING
TO WIPE THE BLOOD
OFF MY GREEN
HANDS I'VE GOT TO
SAVE GAWAIN. I'VE
BEEN HUNTING GOLD
FOR WEEKS. YES-
TERDAY A MUTATED
BULLY-BOY NAMED
VULX TRIED TO STOP
ME -- BY KILLING ME.

NOW I'M
MAD. AND
I'M CLOSE.

I CAN
SMELL IT.

THEY GOT KILLED. I
GOT STRONG. AND A
KID NAMED GAWAIN
WHO TRUSTED ME
GOT KIDNAPPED.

THE POND-SUCKER WHO
NABBED HIM IS AN
UNDERGROUND
GENETICIST CALLED
GOLD. HE THINKS
GAWAIN CAN TELL HIM
ABOUT THE GAMMA-
POWER THAT MADE
ME THE HULK.

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

HULK

THE PRICE OF PERFECTION

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KHATO ARTIST

**STARKINGS
w/O'NEIL** LETTERERS

**TOM
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MAYBE IT'S THE WHARF
I SMELL. ROTTEN PIER
IN POLLUTED OCEAN.

ROTTEN BODIES WITH
POLLUTED DREAMS.

TIME TO FIT
IN. TIME TO
BE HUMAN.

GAAARH!

I DON'T
LIKE IT.

WHY...
WHY...

I DON'T
WANT TO
SCARE 'EM
AWAY, QUIRK.
I'VE GOT TO
PLAY THE SLIMY
HUMAN GAME
AGAIN. AND
YOU'VE GOT
TO PLAY IT
WITH ME.

SLIMY
HUMAN?
NO PROBLEM.
I'M IN SHOW
BIZ, RE-
MEMBER?

QUIRK NEARLY
GOT HERSELF
KILLED BY
TELLING THE
TRUTH, AND
I'VE BEEN PRO-
TECTING HER
EVER SINCE.

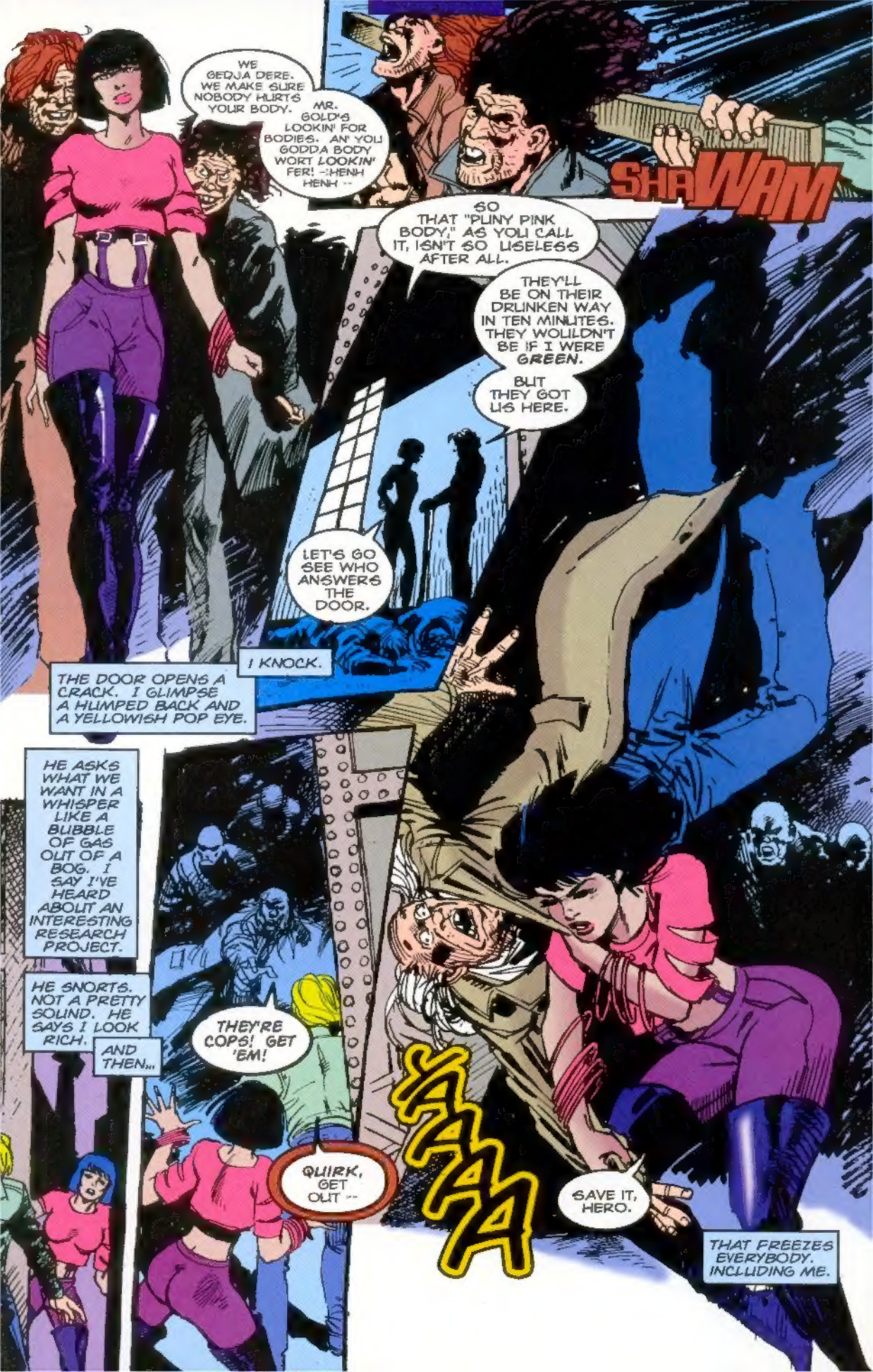
SHE DISCOVERED A FREAK NAMED
"GOLD" WAS HIRING DRUNKEN
SAILORS AND BLIMS TO BRING HIM
HEALTHY YOUNG
VOLUNTEERS.

I GET OUT
OF SIGHT
WHILE SHE
DOES
HEALTHY
AND YOUNG
LIKE ONLY
SHE CAN.

OH, THAT
SOUNDS SO FUN!
BUT I HAVE TO RUN
AN ERRAND FIRST, TO SEE
A MR. GOLD ABOUT A
RESEARCH PROJECT.

—HENH—
YOU WANGO
SOMEPLACE 'ITH
ME? I KNOW A
PLACE WHUR DEY
T'ROW CATS IN
A SHARK-
TANK!





WE
GEDJA DERE.
WE MAKE SURE
NOBODY HURTS
YOUR BODY.

MR.
GOLD'S
LOOKIN' FOR
BODIES. AN' YOU
GODD'A BODY
WORT' LOOKIN'
FERT! -HENH
HENH --

SO
THAT "PLINY PINK
BODY," AS YOU CALL
IT, ISN'T SO USELESS
AFTER ALL.

THEY'LL
BE ON THEIR
DRINKEN WAY
IN TEN MINUTES.
THEY WOULDN'T
BE IF I WERE
GREEN.

BUT
THEY GOT
US HERE.

LET'S GO
SEE WHO
ANSWERS
THE
DOOR.

I KNOCK.

THE DOOR OPENS A
CRACK. I GLIMPSE
A HUMPED BACK AND
A YELLOWISH POP EYE.

HE ASKS
WHAT WE
WANT IN A
WHISPER
LIKE A
BUBBLE
OF GAS
OUT OF A
BOG. I
SAY I'VE
HEARD
ABOUT AN
INTERESTING
RESEARCH
PROJECT.

HE SNORTS.
NOT A PRETTY
SOUND. HE
SAYS I LOOK
RICH.


AND THEN...

THEY'RE
COPS! GET
'EM!

QUICK,
GET
OUT --

SAVE IT,
HERO.

THAT FREEZES
EVERYBODY.
INCLUDING ME.



BUT IT
GIVES ME
TIME TO
START
TALKING.

THAT'S
THE ONE
THING
HOLLY-
WOOD
TEACHES
YOU.

ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE
TALKING LIES.

CAN'T BLAME
YOU FOR THINKING
I'M A FAKE -- 'CAUSE
I AM! I'M BUYING
STORIES FOR V.R.
PIX AND THERE'S
MONEY FOR ANY-
BODY WITH TALES
TO TELL.

PLUS
A FEW COM-
NUMBERS FOR
YOUNG
ACTRESSES,
HM?

THEY LED US IN,
SAYING THEIR
BOSS MIGHT
WANT TO MAKE
A DEAL.

WHERE'D
YOU LEARN
THAT MOVE,
GIRL?

IF
I'M GOING
TO HANG WITH
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU, I'D BETTER
LEARN SOME
MOVES.

WHY'S SHE
DOING THIS --

-- WALKING INTO THE
STINKING PITS OF
HUMAN GREED TO
HELP A KID
SHE'S NEVER
MET?

AND I'M LEADING HER INTO
IT. MAYBE INTO A TRAP.
SUDDENLY I WANT TO RISE
ABOVE THE PITS, SMASH
THESE ROTTEN WALLS AND
LET THE AIR IN --

BE THE
HULK!

BUT I'VE
GOT TO
CONTAIN
IT. PLAY
THE GAME
A LITTLE
LONGER.

HYEEEEEE

LET 'EM SPRING
THE **TRAP!**





LAUGH
THIS OFF!

FOMP

BEAT
IT, QUIRK!
YOU PLAYED
YOUR ROLE
GREAT --

SMACK

-- NOW
IT'S MY
SHOW!

NUH-
HOOOO,
BABY.

OURRR
SHOW!

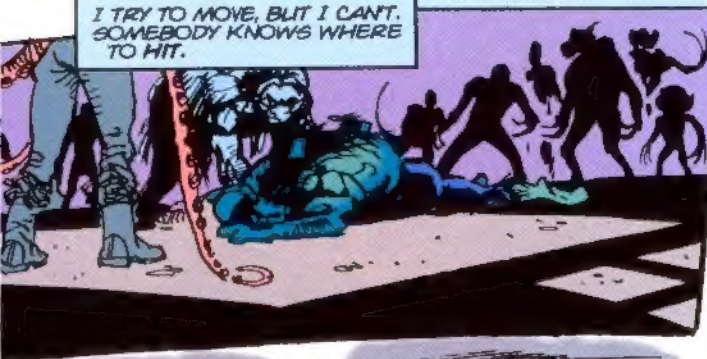
TRAPS ON TOP
OF TRAPS.

NONE OF THEM STRONG
ENOUGH ALONE, BUT
TOGETHER --



SOMETHING HITS MY SPINE,
LIKE A SHOCK THROUGH
EVERY MUSCLE.

I TRY TO MOVE, BUT I CAN'T.
SOMEBODY KNOWS WHERE
TO HIT.



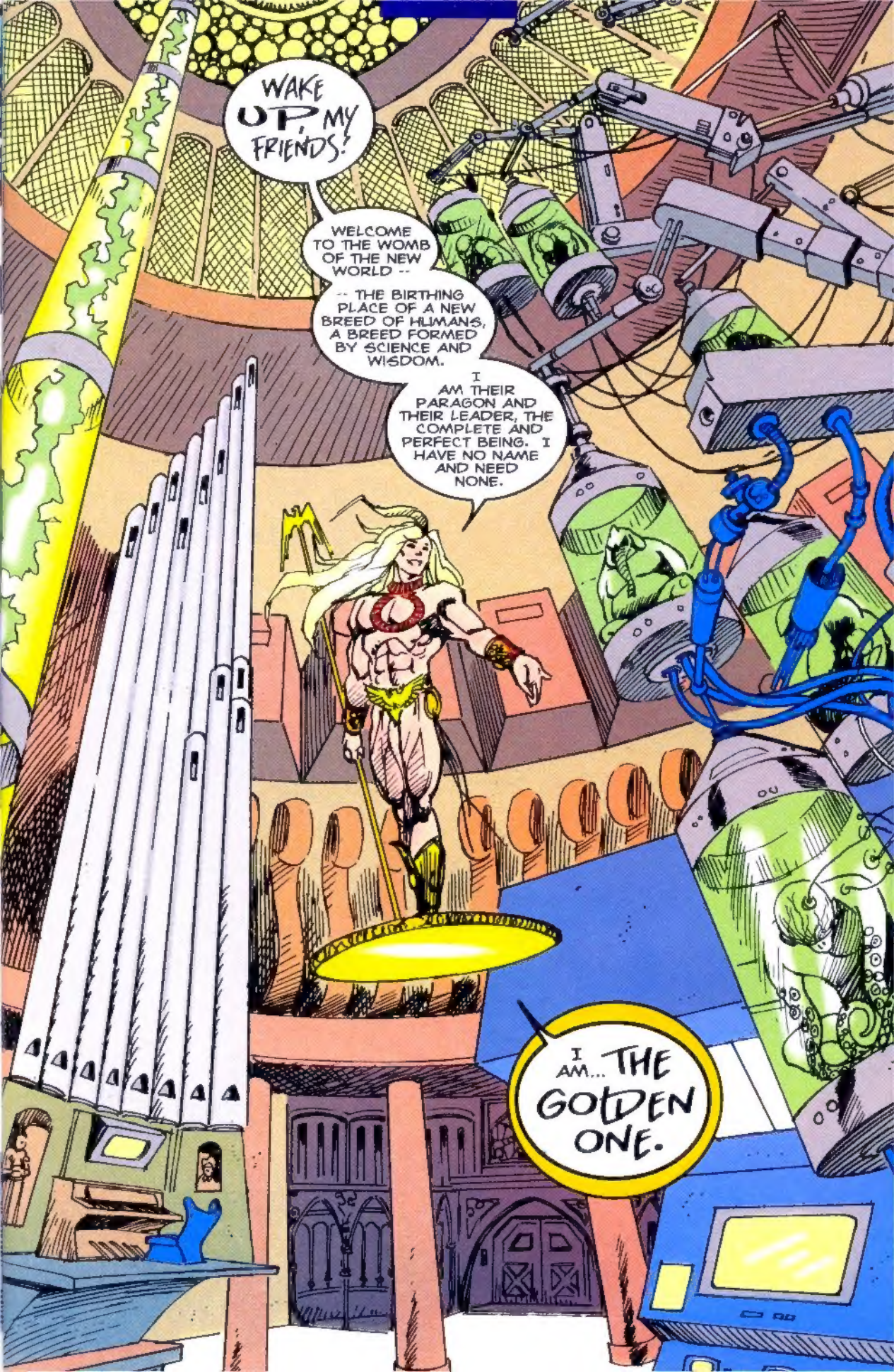
IT'S
MY MOTTO.
"ALWAYS LEARN
FROM PAST
DEFEATS."

VLIX!



HIS HISS IS THE
LAST SOUND I
MAKE OUT.

DARKNESS CARRIES
ME AWAY, OR MAYBE
IT'S THEM.



WAKE
UP, MY
FRIENDS!

WELCOME
TO THE WOMB
OF THE NEW
WORLD --

-- THE BIRTHING
PLACE OF A NEW
BREED OF HUMANS,
A BREED FORMED
BY SCIENCE AND
WISDOM.

I
AM THEIR
PARAGON AND
THEIR LEADER, THE
COMPLETE AND
PERFECT BEING. I
HAVE NO NAME
AND NEED
NONE.

I
AM... THE
GOLDEN
ONE.

AND I'M
THE GREEN
ONE. GUESS
SOMEBODY
FORGOT TO
POLISH
ME.

YOU
NEED NONE.
YOU ARE
MAGNIFICENT
AS YOU
ARE.

I NEVER
DREAMED I'D
HAVE TO USE SO
MUCH POWER TO
PARALYZE YOU. OH,
I'D HEARD THE
URBAN LEGENDS
ABOUT THE
GREAT GREEN
MONSTER...

...BUT
I NEVER
DREAMED
THE REALITY
WOULD BE
SO IMPRES-
SIVE!

YOU
WANT TO SEE
SOMETHING
IMPRESSIVE?
LET HIM OUT
OF THOSE
SHACKLES!

I HOPE I
CAN. I HOPE
YOU WILL BE MY
ALLY, NOT MY
ENEMY.

I'M READING
YOUR MUSCLE-
MASS PER CUBIC
CENTIMETER, YOUR
POTENTIAL ENERGY,
YOUR METAB-
OLISM...

$$\frac{2\sqrt{42} - 16}{51x^2 - 2x}$$

$$\frac{81x(1)}{x^2(42y^3)}$$

$$\frac{2\sqrt{77}}{9(3) - 9} \sqrt{90\sqrt{t}}$$

I HAD
NO IDEA THAT
SCIENCE COULD MAKE
A BEING SO AWESOME!
MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
STRIVING TO CREATE
SUCH POWER FOR
DECADES...AND
SUDDENLY IT WALKS
RIGHT IN ON
US.

$$\frac{3\sqrt{91}}{27 - 23x} \frac{22\sqrt{67}}{22\sqrt{67}}$$

YOU'VE
BROUGHT US
TEN STEPS CLOSER
TO REPLACING THE
ACCIDENTALS.

"ACCIDENTALS."

YOU MEAN
PEOPLE,
DON'T YOU?
PEOPLE WHO
AREN'T SCIENTI-
FICALLY
BRED.



DECADES AGO,
SCIENTISTS SAW MAN
KIND DECLINING...

"...SAW THE MINDLESS
OFFICE DRONE, THE
CRIMINAL AND THE
WELFARE LEECH BE-
COMING THE HUMAN
NORM

"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO
CREATING THE PERFECT HUMAN.
FINALLY THEY SUCCEEDED. THEY
CREATED ME.

"I SOON GOT MY CREATORS
OUT OF THE WAY...WITH THE
SEETHING ENERGIES OF MY
OWN BODY!

NOW I CREATE NEW BEINGS
TO AID ME IN MY EVENTUAL
MASTERY OF THE DEGENERATE
ACCIDENTALS!"

"IN MY PERFECTION
I SAW THAT ONLY
I COULD LEAD A
PROJECT OF SUCH
IMPORTANCE.

BUT
THOUGH THEY
ARE FEARSOME
FIGHTERS, THEY ARE
FAR FROM MY PERFECTION. I GIVE THEM UGLY
NAMES LIKE VULX AND
FEX TO REMIND THEM
OF THEIR HIDEOUS-
NESS.

SO YOU
KIDNAPPED
A BOY TO SEE IF
YOU COULD SQUEEZE
INFORMATION OUT OF
HIM ABOUT THE
RESEARCH HIS
ELDERS WERE
DOING.

IF WE
HADN'T, WHERE
WOULD HE BE? IN
THE HANDS OF THE
CHAOTIC, MORONIC
"LEGAL" SYSTEM
OF THE ACCI-
DENTALS.

OR AT
THE MERCY OF
THE HOLLYWOOD
EXPLOITER WHO
ALLOWED THE BOY'S
FRIENDS AND
FAMILY TO BE
KILLED!



YOU
SON OF
A

STRUCK
A NERVE,
DIDN'T IT? I
SEE SUCH
THINGS. MY
EYES DISCERN
THREE TIMES
THE DETAIL
OF AN
UNEVOLVED
MAN'S, AND
MY BRAIN
PROCESSES
IT AT TWICE
THE
SPEED.

YES,
I HAVE
DEDUCED
WHO YOU
ARE.

IN YOUR
EYES I SEE
YOUR DISGUST
AT THE LINEVOLVED
HUMANITY YOU
HAVE LEFT
BEHIND.

YOU
KNOW YOU
ARE A PART OF A
SUPERIOR BREED,
AND NOTHING BUT
THE DESTRUCTION
OF THE CORRUPT
AND THE DISEASED
CAN CLEANSE THE
EARTH.

HOW SICK
YOU MUST BE
OF KEEPING TO
THE SHADOWS, OF
WEARING THAT WEAK
OTHER BODY, OF
PLAYING THE
GAMES OF THE
TIMID AND SELF-
LOATHING.

YES.

WOULDN'T
YOU RATHER BE
WITH OTHERS LIKE
YOU? STRONG AND
FREE ABOVE THOSE
WORMS?

YES!

WON'T
YOU JOIN ME
IN SMASHING
THEM
DOWN?

YES!



YOU
CAN'T MEAN
THAT!

WHAT
IS THERE
ABOUT
MANKIND
WORTH
SAVING?
AREN'T
YOU ON A
HIT-LIST,
LIVING IN FEAR,
JUST BECAUSE
YOU WANTED TO
SING THE TRUTH
ABOUT THE
CORRUPTION
IN THIS
WORLD?

TELL
ME WHY
I SHOULD
CARE ABOUT
MANKIND,
QUIRK!

I..
I
GUESS
I
CAN'T.

SO
WHAT ARE YOU
PLANNING? WHAT
ABOUT THIS NEW
WORLD OF
YOURS?

IN
DUE TIME. BUT
FIRST YOU HAVE TO
TELL US SOME THINGS.
HOW DO WE MAKE
MORE LIKE
YOU?

I
DON'T KNOW
THE SCIENCE.
BUT THE K.D.
GAWAIN DOES.
AND I KNOW
HOW TO FORCE
IT OUT OF
HIM.

THEN
YOU'LL HAVE TO
SUCCEED WHERE
I HAVE FAILED.

I'VE BEEN
PICKING AT HIS
BRAIN AND BODY
FOR ANY CLUE TO
WHAT THE KNIGHTS
OF THE BANNER
DISCOVERED..



HEH
HELP
MEEEN

GAWAIN!

...AND
YOU'LL FIND
THAT THERE
ISN'T MUCH
LEFT OF
EITHER OF
THEM!

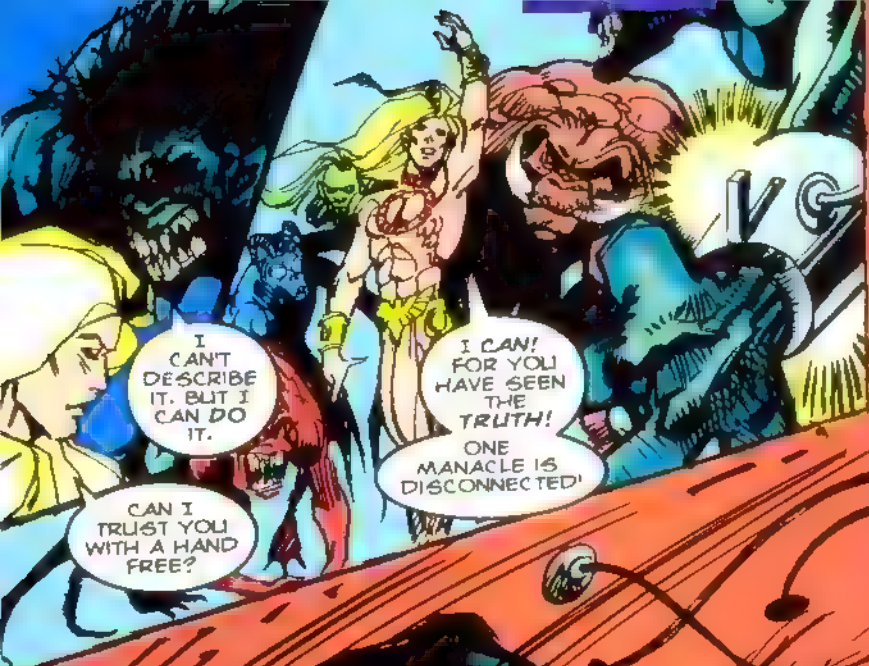
YOU
AND YOUR
STUPID CULT!
THINKING YOU
COULD IMPROVE
MANKIND WITH
YOUR FEEBLE
RITUALS AND
YOUR FEEBLE
BODIES!


THINKING
YOU COULD
MASTER THE
POWER OF THE
LEGENDARY
HULK!

ENCODING
INFORMATION INTO
YOUR UNCONSCIOUS
MINDS, RELEASABLE
ONLY BY A SECRET
PRESSURE
POINT!

SO
THAT'S HOW
IT WORKS! HOW
GLAINT! HOW...
HUMAN!

DESCRIBE
THIS PRESSURE
POINT, HULK! I'LL
USE IT ON
HIM!





MY RUSE IS OVER. THE
FREAKS ARE ON ME
IN A SECOND. LIKE
MOSQUITOES.

HYEE
EE
EE

HISSESS

THIS TIME I ATTACK 'EM
LIKE MOSQUITOES NOT
ALL AT ONCE, LETTING
THEM CONFUSE ME --

-- BUT ONE
AT A TIME.

KSSHH

WITH GOOD AIM I
CAN TAKE OUT A
FEW EXPERIMENTS.

NOT TO
MENTION
VULX.

THOMP

YAAAAA

WHUMP



STOP HIM!
STOP HIM!

HUH?

POWER'S OUT...AND MY
MANACLE'S...

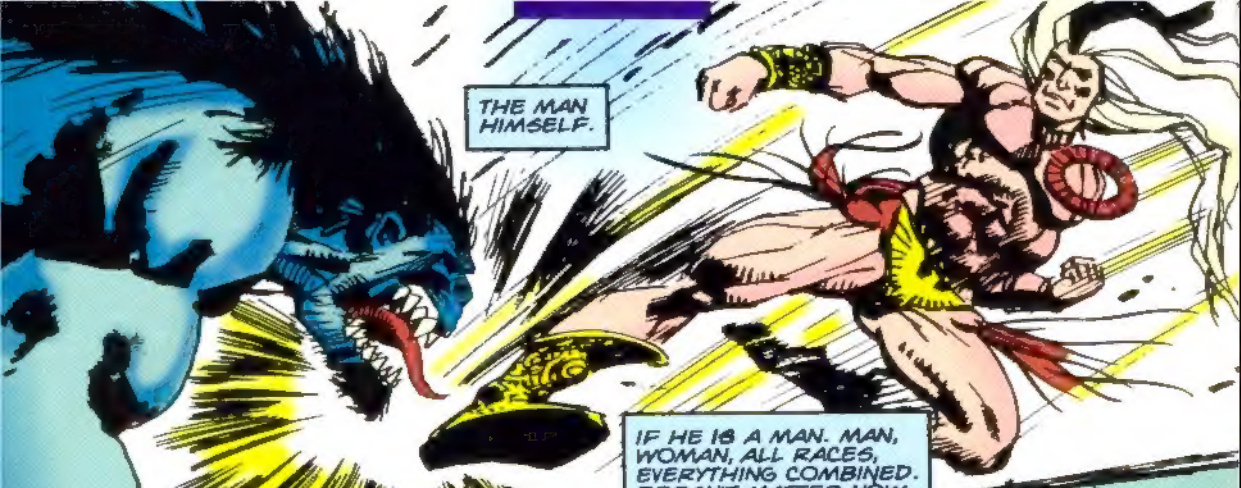
HOO-
HAH!

OH, JEEZ.
NO POWER.
THE FLOATING
TABLE...

...IT'S
DROPPING!

BUT
I GOTCHA,
KIDDO!

QUIRK'S
GOTCHA.




THE MAN
HIMSELF.

IF HE IS A MAN. MAN,
WOMAN, ALL RACES,
EVERYTHING COMBINED.
DOESN'T MATTER NOW.

HE'S FAST, HE'S
STRONG...

JUST NOT
ENOUGH.

HYAAH!



STOOGE OF THE
ACCIDENTALS --
YOU WILL NOT
TAKE MY
PROJECT!

I WILL
NOT HAVE
CORRUPT
LITTLE WORMS
CRAWLING
OVER IT,
POLLUTING
IT!

I WILL
NOT!

TOOM



THE
WHOLE
PLACE IS
BURNING!
YOU'VE
GOTTA GET
US --

OUT!

YOU
KNOW, FOR A
FEW MINUTES
THERE...I REALLY
THOUGHT YOU
WERE GOING OVER
TO HIS
SIDE.

AND I
GUESS...SO
DID HE.

HIS
"PERFECTION"
LINDID HIM. MY
"CORRUPTION..."
MADE ME THE
BETTER
SURVIVOR.

HE'S
NEVER HAD TO
PLAY THE GAMES
OF HUMANS. HE
DIDN'T KNOW HOW
GOOD A MAN CAN
BE -- ESPECIALLY A
HOLLYWOOD
MAN -- AT
LYING.

HUMANS
HAVE AN
ABILITY OTHER
THAN LYING AND
PLAYING GAMES,
Y'KNOW. NOW THAT
YOU'VE GOT THIS
POOR GAWAIN,
YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
LEARN IT.

IT'S
THE ABILITY
TO TAKE CARE
OF PEOPLE.

I
KNOW, BUT
I WONDER...
IF I CAN EVER
LEARN TO
BE THAT
HUMAN.

ELSEWHERE...

BE AS
HUMAN AS YOU
WANT, HULK. NURTURE
ALL THE PATHETIC
LITTLE VICTIMS
YOU WANT.

THE
GOLDEN
ONE AND HIS
DREAM ARE
FAR FROM
DEAD!

END.